

down on illegal guns and convince state legislatures and Congress to take ideology out of law enforcement.

The coalition's basic principle is that keeping illegal guns off the street is not an issue of ideology but of law enforcement. It, therefore, is united in taking a commonsense approach to fighting illegal guns at the local, State and Federal levels. The vast majority of guns used in crimes are purchased and possessed illegally. Most gun dealers, however, are honest business people that carefully follow the law. According to gun crime trace data, 85 percent of dealers do not sell any guns used in crimes. It is only a small number of irresponsible dealers that cause the vast majority of problems. In fact, it is only about 1 percent of gun sellers who account for 60 percent of all guns used in crimes.

According to a national survey conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research and the Terrance Group on behalf of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, 84 percent of Americans say they are concerned about gun violence. This concern crosses partisan lines, and spans big cities and small rural areas alike. Eighty-two percent of Americans favor either tougher enforcement of existing laws or tough new laws. This strong public support for commonsense measures serves to reinforce what we should already know. I would like to urge this Congress to follow the example of these mayors and work in a bipartisan manner to promote and pass sensible gun safety legislation.

HONORING INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the Super Bowl Champions from my home State of Indiana, the Indianapolis Colts. The Colts' 29-17 historic win over the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI was the first professional football championship for the State of Indiana and a proud moment for our State and country.

As Tony Dungy hoisted the Lombardi Trophy high into the rainy Miami night, the first African American coach to do so, I was reminded of what people used to say about the great Joe Louis: "He is a testament to his race, the human race." This was a great moment for African Americans but one that we all should take pride in. Tony Dungy, Peyton Manning, Jim Irsay, and the entire Colts team and organization are a testament to what professional athletes should be, and they should be commended for winning with class, courage, and character.

It is rare in today's sports world that an organization carries itself with such character and class, on and off the field. Throughout the year, the Colts battled week after week, fighting uphill, and never buckling under the pressure.

Once the playoffs started, the Colts' true character shined even brighter. They never lost faith in themselves and prevailed as a team. Their conduct this

season should be an example for all other teams, not an exception.

I will never forget sitting with my two young boys cheering as our team won the Super Bowl, but it was just as important that they got to see professional athletes carry themselves with such integrity. I congratulate the Indianapolis Colts on their Super Bowl victory and for the example they set for my children and the millions of others who I hope are inspired by their example.

DOMESTIC PET TURTLE MARKET ACCESS ACT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I come to the floor today as a cosponsor of the Domestic Pet Turtle Market Access Act of 2007. If enacted, this bill would re-open the U.S. market to allow the sale of baby turtles as pets. In Louisiana, we have 72 licensed turtle farmers who produce over 13 million turtles year with a farm value of \$9 million. Unless Congress enacts this bill, this industry will die and Louisiana will bear the brunt of the loss.

Since 1975, the FDA has banned the sale of turtles sold as pets due to health concerns regarding salmonella poisoning. The FDA, through its Center for Veterinary Medicine, banned the sale of baby turtles in the U.S. due to salmonella poisoning occurring in children in households with pet turtles.

The industry has survived by taking their market abroad to Asia. Asia has developed their own turtle market and is no longer in need of U.S. turtles. As a result, U.S. turtle farmers have nowhere to sell their product, and they are barely getting by.

Three decades have now passed and our knowledge of the salmonella bacteria and the technology for treating this bacterium has greatly advanced. Scientists at Louisiana State University have developed salmonella treatments for pet turtles. Thanks to these methods, pet turtles can be treated for salmonella before they are shipped for sale. This treatment, combined with a much higher awareness of how serious salmonella poisoning is and how one prevents transmission of the bacteria, is more than enough to protect individuals who seek to own pet turtles—in fact, it will be more protection than any other amphibian or reptile seller currently provides.

Other similar amphibians and reptiles are not banned for sale in the United States and they also carry salmonella and are a potential health threat. There is no requirement that these pets be treated for salmonella before sale. As a result, the FDA has singled out one industry primarily located in Louisiana.

This bill will require the turtle industry to submit a plan to the FDA for approval. Turtle farmers will be required to demonstrate how they will treat turtles and ensure compliance with this act. The FDA must approve the plan if an acceptable treatment is

chosen by the turtle farmer and it exceeds current similar methods being used by other amphibian and reptile pet sellers.

The Louisiana turtle industry will become a dead industry this year unless Congress enacts this bill and allows the U.S. market to re-open. In 30 years, our understanding of salmonella prevention and the technology and science has advanced tremendously. This bill keeps intact important safety provisions to protect individuals and at the same time allows the re-opening of a market to stop an important industry in Louisiana from dying. I support this bill, and I hope the rest of the Senate will join me in supporting this commonsense bill that will protect consumers, protect farmers, and bring the joy of caring for pet turtles to millions.

TRIBUTE TO JACOB N. PERKINS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today with a deep sense of sadness, I wish to speak in honor of a wonderful man, Jacob N. Perkins—a former staff assistant in my office, who passed away on February 5, 2007. Although "Jake" worked for me some time ago—in 1990 and 1991—he remained a key part of what I like to call the extended Warner staff family.

Jake first came to my office as a summer intern from Virginia Tech University. From day one, he impressed all of us with his profound work ethic, his absolute dedication and loyalty, his keen interest in government and politics, and his generosity of spirit. In fact, Jake was such an impressive young man that, after his internship, he was hired on as a member of my permanent staff to serve as my chief mail clerk. He always carried out his responsibilities in an exemplary fashion, giving 150 percent of effort each and every day.

Upon leaving my office, Jake returned to Virginia Tech to finish his undergraduate work. In 1994, he received his bachelor's degree in political science, compiling nearly a 4.0 average his final 2 years of school. After graduating at Virginia Tech, Jake attended law school at the University of Maryland in Baltimore.

Through all the time that has passed, Jake has remained a steadfast friend of my office, supporting my campaigns and projects whenever possible and maintaining warm and important friendships with current and former staff members. Indeed, only this past Christmas, he was the principal organizer of our annual staff alumni luncheon.

In recent years, Jake began to have significant health problems. His passing away this past Monday at the early age of 37, reportedly due to kidney transplant complications, is a tragedy.

Jake was a remarkable man in so many ways. For one, you would never have known he was ill, not even for a day. He was the type of man who never

complained, who was always upbeat, and who continuously looked out for his friends and family.

He was an avid Virginia Tech sports fan, an unfailing fan of the New York Yankees, and always eager to enjoy a game of golf with his friends.

Jake had a tremendous community presence in his home of Poolesville, MD. From his leadership role in the local Chamber of Commerce, to organizing and serving as chair of "Poolesville Day" in honor of his beloved community, to helping coach youth basketball teams, to serving as an announcer at local school sporting events, Jake's dedication to community service exemplified the motto of his alma-mater, Virginia Tech: *Ut Prosim*—that I may serve.

Jake Perkins was a big man with a big presence. The biggest thing about him, however, was his heart. He will be greatly missed by this Senator and many WARNER staff members past and present.

My sincere condolences go out to his dear mother, Mrs. Ellen Perkins of Poolesville, MD, and his brother and sister-in-law, Michael and Shoshana Perkins. We thank you for the gift of Jake's friendship in our lives. We will miss him, but we are forever grateful for the time we had with him. Jake Perkins will always be remembered.

CONGRATULATING BILL O'NEIL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today it is my honor to salute a longtime Vermont athletic coach, Bill O'Neil, of Essex High School. Bill has been named the 2006 Hockey Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations. While he has amassed an impressive record in his 35 years of coaching hockey, softball and girls soccer, winning over 900 games and 16 State championships, Bill has always instilled in his players the simple attitude that the game is more than just the win. Learning to play the game, positive sportsmanship, community involvement and academics are even more important to Coach O'Neil. To his players, Bill is a coach, mentor, teacher and lifelong friend.

I am delighted that a Vermonter has been recognized with such a prestigious honor. The Burlington Free Press recently published an article about Coach O'Neil's recognition. I ask unanimous consent that the article, "O'Neil Tops in the Nation," by Ted Ryan, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press,
Feb. 8, 2007]

O'NEIL TOPS IN THE NATION
(By Ted Ryan)

In 35 years of coaching at Essex High School, Bill O'Neil has won over 900 games and 16 state championships in three sports.

He's been a Vermont coach of the year twice in girls' soccer, twice in boys' hockey and three times in softball.

In 2006, his Hornets won the girls' soccer and boys hockey state titles and finished second in softball.

Now, O'Neil is the national high school boys' hockey coach of the year for 2006. "It blew me away," O'Neil said after Essex athletic director Ed Hockenbury informed him of the honor.

"I'm very surprised, very flattered," O'Neil said. "It's a very humbling experience. How can you describe how you feel?"

He said he was staggered at thinking of the many coaches for such hockey beds as Minnesota, Michigan, Massachusetts, Colorado, "even California" who were deserving of such an honor, awarded by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

O'Neil had been named the Section 1 boys hockey coach for 2006, making him eligible for the national award. Two other Vermont coaches, Northfield High School baseball coach Frank Pecora and Woodstock Union High School football coach Jim McLaughlin, were also Section 1 winners.

"Bill is extraordinarily dedicated and hard-working," said Essex athletic director Ed Hockenbury. "He loves spending his time with kids. Win or lose, he is a role model who exemplifies class and dignity in the coaching profession. He is very deserving of this award."

O'Neil will be honored by the Vermont Principals Association at its annual VPA Hall of Fame dinner in May.

O'Neil's boys' hockey teams have reached the finals 15 times, winning the title 11 times. His 2005-06 team went 19-4 and defeated BFA-St. Albans in the championship game.

Whatever the sport, O'Neil said, he has been fortunate to work for athletic directors—Paul Henry, Bruce Wheeler, Melba Masse and Hockenbury—who "emphasize the importance of involvement with kids, that it's more than winning."

"They've never been just about winning. When I'd go in and say we're down, they'd say, 'You're doing a good job with the kids. They've learned the game, they're coming along and they're doing stuff in the community.'"

"All of these mentors of mine have made these programs, not just my programs but all in Essex athletics. All the coaches here are esteemed," O'Neil said. "You don't see anybody that only wants to win and that's what matters."

O'Neil acknowledged that he is not often on the same page as the youth hockey coaches, but said, "They do a huge job of teaching kids the game, getting them involved and making them have some pride in the game and, I'd like to think, respect for the game and all that goes with it."

However, he said, he is concerned that the heavy game schedules for youth teams tend to take something away from appreciation for the sport.

At 35 years of coaching and counting, O'Neil said he can no longer demonstrate everything on the ice or field, but he's still invigorated by young assistants.

"I think more and more about that time being over," said O'Neil of his coaching tenure. "That bothers me. Sometimes I'm so old-school about stuff . . . but I like what I'm doing and I enjoy the kids."

With his children growing and leaving home, O'Neil said, "The coaching thing is my reward at the end of the day."

"As much as I like teaching, I love coaching," said the English teacher.

And as long as he feels that way, Bill O'Neil will continue adding to one of the most impressive coaching careers in Vermont high school history.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE LATE LORNE "GUMP" JOHN WORSLEY

• Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a hockey legend whose personality and character remind us all of the human side of sports; Lorne "Gump" John Worsley. During his years playing professional hockey in Minnesota, beginning his career with the St. Paul Saints and finishing with the Minnesota North Stars, he found a special place in the hearts of fans who knew him simply as "the Gumper."

Lorne Worsley was born in Montreal, Quebec, on May 14, 1929. As a child, he was given the nickname "Gump" because the cowlick in his hair looked almost identical to that of comic strip character Andy Gump. The nickname would follow him for the rest of his life. Despite growing up penniless during the Great Depression, Gump dreamed of being a professional hockey player, a dream that would lead him into the history books as one of the most memorable and accomplished goalies in hockey.

In 1950, Gump Worsley began his professional hockey career, playing for the St. Paul Saints of the U.S. Hockey League. That year, Gump obtained the first of many future accolades when he was named the league's Rookie of the Year. Two years later, in 1952, Gump joined the National Hockey League's New York Rangers, where his debut season earned him the Calder Trophy as NHL Rookie of the Year.

As Gump Worsley's career progressed, so did his accomplishments. After being acquired by the Montreal Canadiens, his hometown team, in 1963, Gump helped lead the team to four Stanley Cup Championships in the span of 5 years—winning titles in 1965, 1966, 1968, and 1969. During his time with the Canadiens, Gump was awarded the Vezina Trophy as the NHL's top goalie in both 1966 and 1968. In 1966, his record was 29-14-6 with a goals-against-average of 2.36. In 1968, he amassed a record of 19-9-8, with an amazing goals-against-average of just 1.98.

In 1970, Gump joined the Minnesota North Stars, helping fuel the team to the NHL playoffs in three consecutive seasons. Gump Worsley retired from the sport he loved in 1974 with a record of 335-352-150, including 43 shutouts. Over the course of his career, Gump was selected to the National Hockey League's All Star Game four times—in 1961, 1962, 1965, and 1972. After his retirement as a player, Gump remained active in hockey as a scout for the Minnesota North Stars. In 1980, Gump was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Sadly, Gump Worsley passed away on January 26, 2007, at the age of 77. The world of hockey and the State of Minnesota now mourn the passing of a legend. Among his many accomplishments, Gump will be remembered for